

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-13 *(Canceled)*

14. *(Amended)* A system for associating a plurality of upstream channels with a plurality of downstream channels, all of said upstream channels and downstream channels operating on a communications device, comprising:

(a) a media access controller, including:

a filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from a first communication device or a second communication device requesting downstream source, wherein said filter processes authorization instructions to authenticate said bandwidth allocation message, wherein said filter includes a primary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message produced by the first communications device; and a secondary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from the second communications device, wherein the second communications device is linked to the first communications device over a slave interface; and

a parse processor for formatting said bandwidth allocation message for a designated upstream channel in response to said configuration signal being authenticated;

(b) a bandwidth allocation memory for selecting and/or storing said bandwidth allocation message from said parse processor; and

(c) at least one upstream signal receiver, wherein said bandwidth allocation memory is operable to forward said bandwidth allocation message to the upstream signal receiver that is operable to utilize said bandwidth allocation message to anticipate the arrival of an upstream signal.

15-17 (Canceled)

18. *(original)* The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a plurality of bandwidth allocation memories, wherein each bandwidth allocation memory is associated with an upstream channel, wherein each bandwidth allocation memory selects and/or stores a bandwidth allocation message designated for its associated upstream channel.

19. *(original)* The system of claim 14, wherein said authorization instructions includes an interface bit capable of being set to accept or reject a request from a source of said bandwidth allocation message.

20. *(original)* The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a software application for updating said authorization instructions to designate said downstream sources having authority to send requests to alter the bandwidth allocation of said upstream channels.

21. *(original)* The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a MAP extract for extracting and/or receiving a bandwidth allocation message from the communications device, wherein said bandwidth allocation message is sent to said filter.